## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

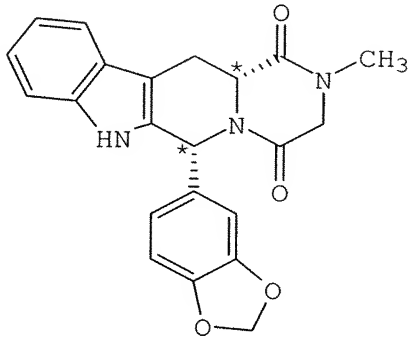
19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A method of preparing a compound having a structural formula:



comprising the steps of:

(a) esterifying D-tryptophan in methanol and thionyl chloride to provide D-tryptophan methyl ester hydrochloride;

(b) reacting the D-tryptophan methyl ester hydrochloride with piperonal in refluxing isopropyl alcohol to provide *cis*-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester;

(c) reacting the product of step (b) with chloroacetyl chloride and triethylamine to provide *cis*-1-(1,3-benzodioxo-5-yl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester; and

(d) reacting the product of step (c) with methylamine to provide the compound.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein step (d) is performed in tetrahydrofuran, and wherein the tetrahydrofuran is removed and replaced with an alcohol for isolation and purification of the compound.

25. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the compound is purified by recrystallization from glacial acetic acid.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound is purified by recrystallization from glacial acetic acid.

27. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the *cis*-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester of step (b) is isolated in greater than 90% yield.